



UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Summary November 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Juan Cardenas and introductions were made.

The meeting summaries for June, September and October were approved.

Update from Upcounty Regional Director

Catherine Matthews, Regional Director, shared the following highlights.

- The Board's current three vacancies will probably be filled after the first of the year as "mid-year appointments." Interviews would be conducted after Thanksgiving by Mr. Aviles, Ms. Seals, and Mr. Thompson.
- The County received \$260k from the Rockefeller Foundation towards the BRT Study.
- Homeowners are able to apply for reimbursement from the SBA for damage related to tropical storm Lee.
- The Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs is looking for citizen input on the county's Housing Policy. Two public meetings will be held to receive comments, November 30 and December 1. The Policy is updated every ten years and the next one will be presented to the County Council in January 2012.
- Mr. Michael Subin announced that Mr. Leggett's "Respect the Space" Campaign to prevent the abuse of parking spaces designated for people with disabilities and to prevent the illegal use of placards and plates.
- Mr. Subin also announced that the Executive is looking for candidates to serve on the Committee Evaluation and Review Board (CERB). The deadline for applications is December 28 and details can be found on the County's website.

Update from the County Council

- No report.

Guest Discussion: Updates from State Legislators prior to 2012 General Assembly; Montgomery County's Priorities for the 2012 Session Handouts distributed.

Melanie Wenger, Director of the County's Office of Intergovernmental Relations, gave opening remarks about the County's priorities for the upcoming session. The following legislators then presented to the Board: Senator Nancy King; Delegate Charles Barkley; Delegate Kirill Reznik; Delegate Kathleen Dumais; Delegate Shane Robinson; Delegate Eric Luedke; and Delegate Craig Zucker. Some of the items discussed included education issues, the gas tax, Upcounty transportation priorities, healthcare reform, juvenile justice, septic issues, and funding for services for those with disabilities.

Report from the Chairperson

Mr. Cardenas reported that Monday's November 28th Quality Life Committee will have a discussion of the County's emergency response and evacuation plan. The Land Use Committee will meet November 29th (Tuesday) to host an open house on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study that is underway. Planning staff will provide a presentation as well. That meeting starts at 6:00pm with the presentation beginning at 6:30pm.

Committee and Liaison Reports

Land Use: Committee Chair James Wallace provided an update on plans to redevelop the County Service Park on Crabbs Branch Road. Committee member and Board representative to the Shady Grove Sector Plan Implementation Committee, Natalia Farrar, clarified that the county is master planning the west side of the area as the first phase of development.

No other reports were given.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Members present: Andres Aviles, Juan Cardenas, Joel Cockrell, Cherian Eapen, Natalia Farrar, Scott Graham, James King, Matthew Leakan, Kevin Linck, Robert Nelson, Doug Noble, Oneil Ormsby, Gail Robinson, Robert Thompson, James Wallace, Rebecca Walker.

Members absent: Pat Seals

Other Guests: Michael Subin, Rosemary Arkoian, Tiffany Arnold (Patch.com).

Staff: Catherine Matthews